

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) FAQ's

Last Update: 5/9/2020

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Section 2107 of the CARES Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). The following is information you will need to know.

What is Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)?

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits is a temporary program that provides up to 13 weeks of 100% federally funded benefits to claimants who have exhausted their regular UI claim. Claimants whose UI benefit year ended on or after July 1, 2019 are eligible for PEUC benefits provided a new UI benefit year eligibility cannot be established. Claimants will need to be able and available to seek or accept work once "Stay at Home" restrictions have been lifted due the COVID-19 provisions.

How long will PEUC be available?

PEUC is payable beginning the week ending April 4, 2020 and will end the week ending December 26, 2020.

Am I eligible for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits?

Possibly, not all UI claimants will be eligible for PEUC. You may be eligible if you have exhausted your regular UI benefits on or after July 1, 2019; if you are currently not eligible for any other UI benefits; and if you are able and available for work, with the exception where COVID-19 reasons have made it not possible to seek or accept work.

How will I know if I am eligible for PEUC?

DETR will send out written notification advising you of your potential entitlement to PEUC and include filing instructions. This notification will be sent if you established a claim with a benefit year ending after July 1, 2019 that has either exhausted benefits or if your benefit year has expired.

How do I file for PEUC benefits?

Notification will be mailed to your address on file advising you of your potential eligibility for PEUC benefits. When you receive this letter, you will need to login to your unemployment account at <u>ui.nv.gov</u> and follow these steps:

1. **If you have an active and exhausted claim**: select the "Apply for Emergency Unemployment Comp" link on the Claimant Home Page under Smartlinks to file your PEUC claim.

OR

2. If you have an inactive and exhausted claim: select the "Reactivate my UI Claim" link on the Claimant Home Page under Smartlinks and follow the steps to reactivate your UI claim. Once you receive confirmation that you have reactivated your UI Claim, return to the Claimant Home Page and select the "Apply for Emergency Unemployment Comp" link under Smartlinks to file your PEUC claim.

OR

- 3. **If you have an expired UI claim**: You will need to open a new UI claim using the "File a New Unemployment Insurance Claim" link. It may take up to 48 to 72 hours for the system to determine if your new claim is Monetarily Eligible.
 - If you have Monetary Eligibility on your new UI claim, you will not be able to file for a PEUC claim until that claim is exhausted.
 - If you do not have Monetary Eligibility on your new claim, you will be presented the "Apply for Emergency Unemployment Comp" link on the Claimant Home Page under Smartlinks and will be able to file your PEUC claim.

The most efficient and effective way to file or reactivate a UI claim is through the UInv Claimant Self-Service filing system at ui.nv.gov. If you wish to file over the telephone, please be aware that wait times are high and that there may be a delay in your ability to file your claim. If you choose to file over the telephone, select option number four (4) for the 13 week extended benefits under the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) claim.

- Northern Nevada-- (775) 684-0350
- Southern Nevada-- (702) 486-0350
- Rural Nevada & Out-of-State-- (888) 890-8211

Are there any special requirements for PEUC?

No. All current Nevada laws and rules for unemployment eligibility apply the same to PEUC as they apply to regular unemployment benefits.

How do I know when my regular UI claim has exhausted to be PEUC eligible?

Your claim is exhausted when you have been paid your maximum benefit amount (MBA) for your UI claim and regular UI funds are no longer available.

Is there a waiting week for PEUC?

No, PEUC does not have a separate waiting week.

File your claim online at ui.nv.gov

How soon will my PEUC claim be active?

PEUC claim activation can take from 48 to 72 hours in order to determine eligibility.

What is the weekly benefit amount I am eligible to receive on PEUC?

PEUC is an extension of your regular UI claim. If you are eligible to file PEUC, you will receive the same weekly benefit amount as you did on your regular UI claim. In addition to your weekly benefit amount, you will also receive the FPUC weekly \$600 payments for weeks filed between April 4, 2020 through July 25,2020.

My claim did not have the full 26 weeks of benefits. How many weeks will I get for PEUC?

This extension adds 13 weeks of benefits regardless of the maximum benefit amount of your prior claim.

Am I required to complete a work search for PEUC?

Work search waivers are good through <u>May 16, 2020</u> at this time. These waivers are automatically applied to claims. Additional guidance will be provided in line with the <u>Governor's Roadmap to Recovery</u>. Changes to the requirement of waivers may occur on a **weekly** basis due to this guidance so please watch for additional instructions or advisements.

Will my employer be charged for PEUC?

No, PEUC benefits are 100% federally funded and there is no charge to the employer for these benefits paid.

Can I still receive FPUC payments if I am filing on PEUC?

Yes. The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) \$600 payment will be available for eligible claim weeks filed between April 4, 2020 through July 25, 2020.

What if I did not have any employment since my last separation?

You will still need to provide information regarding your last separation from employment. If the separation has already been adjudicated on your regular UI claim, it will not be addressed a second time.

If I return to work on a part-time basis, am I eligible for PEUC?

Potentially. If you return to work and continue to file, you may be eligible for reduced unemployment benefits. You would need to report each week the total wages earned. If your earnings are equal to or more than your weekly benefit amount, you will not be eligible for that week of benefits.

I am eligible for a new UI benefit year, can I still file for PEUC benefits?

No. If you are eligible for a new UI benefit year, you must **stop** filing on the PEUC claim and begin filing on a new UI claim. Your eligibility for a new benefit year will occur the day after your current benefit year ends.

I recently filed a new UI claim, am I eligible for PEUC?

No, not while you are eligible for regular UI benefits. Once the regular UI claim exhausts you may possibly be eligible to file for PEUC benefits.

I receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, will my amount be reduced if I file PEUC?

No, if you are entitled to receive TRA funds, the maximum amount of PEUC payable will not reduce by reason of TRA entitlement.

I exhausted my benefits before July 1, 2019 and have not worked since, am I eligible for PEUC?

No. However, depending on when you last reported income, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides benefits to those individuals who do not have enough wages in their base year to file for a regular unemployment insurance claim. Please visit DETR's COVID-19 page for information on the PUA program.

I was self-employed and don't qualify for regular UI. Am I eligible for PEUC?

No. If you don't qualify for a regular unemployment claim because you were self-employed, contract worker, gig economy worker, etc. you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) instead of PEUC. Please visit DETR's COVID-19 page for more information on the PUA program.